# Police Administration in Himachal Pradesh: A Case Study

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# Synopsis

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## *Introduction*

*"Unlike the armed services, the police is a civilian force; Unlike the civil services, it is a disciplined service. The police service has thus a flavour all its own and comparison with other services can be misleading."*

*Royal commission on the Police, 1962.*

The concept of Police Brutality is appeared from the word 'danda', meaning a stick, which expresses coercion, force and punishment. During the Ashoken Period (third century B.C.) dharma was the basis of law, and crime vis-à-vis punishment was looked upon as the cause and effect.[1]The term 'police' has been derived from the Greek word 'polics'. The police are the body of civil servants whose duties are preservation and detection of crime and enforcement of laws. Police is a power of promoting public welfare by restraining and regulating the use of property and liberty.[2]The concept of welfare state demands that the police in addition to protecting the government and maintaining law and order in the society also protect the life and property of the people.[3]

Oxford dictionary defines police as "the civil force charged with keeping order, civil administration of the city or town and public order".[4] According to the Royal commission on police powers and procedures 1929, a policeman is a person paid to

[1] Khan Sultan Akbar, "Power Police and Public", Vishal Publications Kurukshetra, 1983, pp. 2.
[2] Sen Sanhar, "Police today", Asia publication house, New Delhi, 1986, pp.13.
[3] Begum, S. M., "district Police Administration", Anmol publication private limited new Delhi,1996 pp. 2.
[4] Oxford advanced dictionary.

perform, as a matter of duty, acts, which, if he were so minded, he might have done voluntarily.[5]The term police today designate the executive civil force of a state, which is entrusted the duty of maintaining public order and enforcing regulations for the prevention and detention of crime.

No society can progress amidst lawlessness. One cannot visualise the existence of society in the absence of police, as maintenance of peace and order is the key to the development of all social, political, religious and economic functions of any democratic set up.[6]The problems in police Administration in developing country are varied and complex in nature. These problems get further accentuated because of the historical background of colonial rule and the distrust generated as a result thereof between the police which symbolises the visible authority and the people in general.[7]

There is no denying fact that at present the public image of the police at all levels has reached its nadir.[8] Time and again, questions have been raised about the imperviousness; wooden-headedness, obstructiveness, brutality, corruption, and arrogant attitude of the police. Frequent violations of human rights by the police, criminal-politician-police nexus, and lack of professionalism and undemocratic style of functioning are well known ills of Indian polity today.[9]

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[5] ibid., pp.2

[6] Bhandari, Anuradha, "Police sub culture: An Adaptation of a scalefor indian policemen", The Indian police journal vol. LVII-No-April-june, 2010, pp .9.

[7] Chaturvedi T.N., "Editor's Introduction" , Indian Journal of Public Administration, October 1982, pp.3.

[8] Singh Rakesh kumar, "Police Training", The Indian Police Journal, Jan-March, Vol. LV No.1, 2008, pp .65.

[9] Mathur S.P., "Police Vision 2020: Policing for global fund of happiness", The Indian Police Journal, Oct- Dec .Vol. LVI No. 4, 2009,pp8.

In 21st century in the Era of vast technological revolution and globalisation it has become difficult for the police to act as an agent of social change with old instrumental and unoriented personnel.[10]The expectations of the public are changing with time. There is a challenge in front of police to meet these expectations. Public opinion is depicted by the pictures inside the brain of the people. Police should have the capacity to gauge changing aspirations of people.[11]

## Literature review

It is quite essential that a beginner should acquaint himself/herself with hole of available literature in the concerned

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[10] Tewari A. .K., "Changing Public Expectations and Community Policing" The Indian Police Journal, July Sep .Vol. LVI No. 4, 2007, pp 73.

[11] Jha S. K.,"Police as an Agent of Social Change", The Indian Police Journal, Jan- March, .Vol. LVI No. 4, 2010 pp 9.

field before he/she embarks upon the field of investigation. The through grasps of existing literature are an essential prerequisite for the researchers. Some of the books and articles related to Police administration are being reviewed in the proceeding paragraphs.

**Stone & Delucca(1983)[12]**

This book is intended to provide an overview of the principal duties and responsibilities of the police administration in general. The author talks about the challenges of communal harmony and ways for combating communalism. He also deals with the policing challenges of 21st century and agenda for reforms.

**Sen(1986)[13]**

This book contains a number of articles on diverse police problems such as maintenance of law and order, criminal justice system, discipline of the police force and on the topic of interests like V.I.P. security, road accidents and police training etc. The article which covers a wide spectrum of police administration combine deep perception and a penetrating analysis of issues related to law enforcement. This book will provide police officers and public a better and clear insight into the problems of policing in a perplexed society.

**Shekher(1999)[14]**

[12] Alferd R. Stone & Stuart M. Delucca, "Police Administration An Introduction" ,Prentice hall publication, New Jersey, 1983.
[13] Sen Sankar, "Police Today", Ashish Publication House, New Delhi, 1986.
[14] Shekhar rajender, "Not A Licence to Kill-police need paradigm shift", Konark publishers p. Ltd., new Delhi, 1999.

The author feels that the Indian police is largely‘re-active’ there being greater emphasis on crime prevention. This would necessarily involve community policing and community service. The author makes a strong case for change. He endorsed the recommendations of the National Police Commission as regards the enhancement of duties, powers and responsibilities.

**Chaturvedi(2000)[15]**

The author during his research study on systematic training for civil servants found that research studies in training processes and practices have so for been very few. At governmental level, studies on training action are done by researchers who are neither involved in training at cutting edge level nor responsible for implementation of findings. He has highlighted the roles of organisational level. He has also discussed various factors which determine the effectiveness of training selection of trainees, clarity of objectives, transfer of learning, post training follow up etc.

**Sen(2000)[16]**

In the present book author has conducted an analytical study on various aspects of policing. In this book he has talked about the comparison of police training and military training. He concluded that no worthwhile improvement in the training of police personnel is possible unless capable and conscious officers are brought into the training institutions as trainers.

[15] Chaturvedi A.N., “Systematic Training for civil Services”, Gian Pubklishing house, Delhi, 2000.
[16] Sen Shankar, “Police in Democratic Societies”, Gian publishing house, new Delhi, 2000.

**Dikshit(2002)[17]**

The book "Police with the human face" is a collection of articles penned over a period of decades or so with the sole purpose of initiating steps to make face of the humane law and order maintenance machinery more humane and responsive to the aspirations of the people of independent India. It may really be very shocking to read about Indian police as if they are aliens and devoid of the "milk of human kindness". The author has made efforts to analyse the working conditions of police force and also to suggest better ways of policing.

**Singh(2002)[18]**

Singh in his study has observed that neglect of training of policeman was the main reason for the poor state of its affairs. He felt that at least one fourth of the police should always be under training to acquaint them with the latest thinking and the techniques of policing.

**Vadackumchery(2002)[19]**

Present book tries to present a comprehensive work in the field of police morality. He discussed in detail about a balance to be made between legality and morality. Later in the book author talks about morality, its development, character and reasons, morality and law, socialisation and politicization and implications of police morality in police work.

[17] Dikshit R.C., "Police the human face", Gyan publication, new Delhi, 2002.
[18] Singh Joginder, "Inside Indian Police" Gian publishing house, delhi, 2002.
[19] Vadackumchery james, "Police morality", Kalpaz publications, delhi, 2002.

**Verma(2003)[20]**

Present paper is devoted to the application of technology in police services. He says police are a vast data collecting and processing institutions. Police in India are also large units in vertically every state and central establishments. Furthermore, they interact with an extremely large number of citizens on daily bases. All these facts together suggest that Indian police should use technology on a greater basis than now evident. This paper is an attempt to describe various kinds of technological applications in the Indian Police and outline ways of solving current problems through technological applications.

**Mathur (2004)[21]**

The book under review critically examines the challenges to police, human Rights and National Security in a more holistic and pragmatic manner. The book contains 11 chapters. The author talks about the challenges of communal harmony and ways for combating communalism. He also deals with the policing challenges of 21st century and agenda for reforms. The role and responsibilities of the Indian police have become most complete, variegated and challenging.

**Rudra (2004)[22]**

[20] Verma Arvind, "Technological Applications for police" The Indian Police Journal, Apr-June Vol. LVI No. 5, 2003, pp 41.
[21] Mathur Krishna mohan, "challenges to police, Human Rights and national security", Kalpaz publication, 2004.
[22] Rudra Kalyan, "In defence of Indian Police" The Indian Police Journal, jan-march- Vol.LI No. 1, 2004, pp 69.

Present Article is based upon the research comparison between the Indian police and the western police. Comparing the Indian Police with the western police author argues that the police in western countries register cases promptly and take up investigations through scientific techniques. But the proper follow up action is missing and the complainants are not informed about the progress in cases. The advantage is that they have a friendly image, assisted by a law abiding citizenry. In India notwithstanding the absence of resources, hostile public, non-insulating from political and extraneous influence and importantly a very cumbersome and tardy judicial process, but Indian police has been producing reasonably good and prompt results in several complex situations like terrorism, insurgency and communal problems.

**Joshi (2005)[23]**

The book, "Nagpur police through ages- A micro study in micro settings" appears to have been written after a thorough research. in this book the author has thrown light on the police traditions during the pathan rule, Mughal rule as well as Peshwa rule by taking generous assistance from various historical works related to the medieval age. This book may be considered not only as a review of historical evolution of Nagpur police force but also of the police force of central India as a whole. The painstaking research undertaken in writing this book is commendable indeed.

**Mishra (2006)[24]**

[23] Joshi P.L., "Nagpur police through ages-A micro study in micro settings", 2005

This article has been divided in to three parts by the author. The first part put light on police working in pre independence era giving emphasis to the British style of policing. In the 2nd part of the article he talks about post independence period where the police was under democratic control. In the last part of the article the author counts the challenges in the policing in 21st century like rapid industrialisation, urbanisation, and population explosion causing increase in crime.

**Saleem (2006)[25]**

This paper talks about the initiative of community policing in Bangalore City. The author argues that the basic function of any police organisation is to provide safety and security to the people and ensure order in the society. In order to effectively perform these function, the police organisations over the world, impose restrictions on individuals and groups. In the latter part of the article author says the adverse conditions and circumstances demand show of power, firmness in authority. But the same involve members of the public in policing the city.

**Sen (2006)[26]**

In the paper author has talked about four interrelated areas i.e. problem oriented policing, street level problem solving,

[24] Mishra O.P., "Policing in 21st Century: Areas for concern", The Indian Police Journal Jan-March, 2006,VOL.No.LIII-No.1, pp 7

[25] Saleem M.A., "Community Policing in Benglore City" The Indian Police Journal, July- Sep.2006, VOL.LIII NO. 3, pp 72.

[26] Sen Sankae , "Problem oriented policing", The Indian Police Journal , Apr- June 2006 VOLLIII No. 2, pp 18.

professional policing and community policing. By giving reference to certain Research findings in the western democratic countries, the author put light on the need for more problem oriented policing. He also provided some other insight on the research findings of the researchers.

**Singh(2008)[27]**

The author after criticizing the police for inefficiency and incompetence, emphasised the need for Police Training, Problem based learning, direct learning and use of technology in training and functioning of the police. In the later part of the article author has given some conflict resolution methods for police officers.

**Mathur (2009)[28]**

This paper deals with the future vision of author about the Indian Police. Author argued, an efficient policing is required for peace, progress and prosperity of the 21st century India. He also counted the challenges in front of India under the heading of traditional challenges, emerging challenges, challenges of excellence and management constraints. He emphasised the need of reviewing the laws related to police.

**Choudhary(2012)[29]**

This article deals with a idea of the charging by police for the services in deliver to the public. Author himself pints out, while

[27] Singh Rakesh kumar, "Police Training", The Indian Police Journal, Jan-March, Vol. LV No.1, 2008, pp 65.

[28] Mathur S.P., "Police Vision 2020: Policing for global fund of happiness", The Indian Police Journal, Oct- Dec .Vol. LVI No. 4, 2009, pp 8.

[29] Choudhary Rohit, "The Police Services should be paid for", the tribune, Sep-18, 2012 pp-11.

there can be no price tag attached to most police activities, in times of fiscal crunch strategic management is the answer to future policing needs and this will also help in meeting the ever growing demand for police services.

**Singh(2012)[30]**

This article talks about the need for humanising police administration. In the article author argues, the police must show sensitivity in handling protests, especially by women. He further says the role of the police has changed in the environment of increasing democratic sentiments.

The existing literature on Police Administration gives comprehensive information about the history of police administration in India, Structure of police Administration at centre and state level, Issues related to efficiency in police, level of corruption and future perspective of police in India. The available literature about the contemporary issues related to police services is very less. The review of the present literature provides a solid foundation for the Study.

**Need and Importance of the study:-**

In the present era of globalisation, when urbanisation is taking place rapidly, crime and criminality are changing their dimensions, population is increasing, crime is getting more and

[30] Singh Surjit, "Humanise police to Empoweer Society", The Tribune, Nov. 2012, pp.9.

more high tech, people are raising their expectations from the police, time and again issues have been raised to humanise the police, to empower the society and to improve the public-police interface. There is no denying fact that at present the public image of the police at all levels has reached its nadir These all have posed a challenge in front of the police administration to adopt some procedural and structural reforms. Therefore in the present circumstances study on police administration has a lot of importance and can be termed as the need of the hour.

More important no comprehensive study seems to have been done in this field; hence the study acquires more importance. This research will also make the police to get acquainted with their new role in changing social environment. The study will offer concrete suggestions, which will immensely help all the concerned.

Hence the need is felt to analyse the public police interface in Himachal Pradesh to find out the need of reform in the area.

**The objectives of the study:**

1. To study the structural of police administration in Himachal Pradesh.
2. To study the procedural aspects of police administration in Himachal Pradesh.
3. To find out what do the police and people in H.P. think of each other in terms of broad perceptions.
4. To offer suggestions to improve the police administration and public-police interface.

**Hypothesis**

The major hypotheses of research study are given below:

1) Structure of Police Administration is not suitable according to the present needs of the people.
2) Procedural aspects of Police Administration need a lot of reforms.
3) People perception about the police is not very good.
4) Police Administration as a whole requires a lots of reforms.

**Research Methodology**

Present research is analytical and exploratory, so in order to achieve above mentioned objectives of the present study both primary and secondary data will be used.

**Secondary Data**

To make the study more relevant and authentic various sources will be consulted. Mainly the secondary data will be collected from the following sources.

- Books and Journals
- Articles from various websites
- Research reports
- Published and unpublished reports (annual reports of State Police Department),
- Magazines and Newspapers,
- Documents and Circulars.
- Records and reference literature published by government of Himachal Pradesh.

**Primary data**

Primary data will be collected through two interview schedules, one for the 100 Police personnel and other will be administered to a sample of 450 respondents from general public selected through sampling methods to find out what do the police and people in H.P. think of each other in terms of broad perceptions.

**Sample Design**

In Himachal Pradesh there are 12 districts i.e. Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kinnaur, Kullu, Lahul-Spiti, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmour, Solan, Una. Out of these 12 districts, Kangra, Una and Shimla will be selected. Kangra will be selected for having highest crime rate in the state. Una will be selected for being a border district of Himachal Pradesh. Shimla will be selected because of capital of the state and State Police Head Quarter is situated in this district.

From these three sample districts 6 tehsils will be selected for the present study. The tentative sample of the selected districts, tehsils and number of respondents is given as under

| District | Kangra | Shimla | Una | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tehsils | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| Respondents | 150 | 150 | 150 | 450 |

Out of total six tehsils two will be selected from Kangra district viz. Palampur, Dharamshala, two from Shimla district viz. Shimla rural, Shimla Urban, and Amb and Una tehsils from Una district on the basis of higher population as per 2011 census.

Out of total 450 respondents 150 each will be selected from the selected tehsils of Kangra and Shimla and Una on the basis of random sampling.

Analysis of data will be done on the basis of percentage and interpretation basis.

**CHAPTERISATION**

1. Introduction
2. Organisational set up of Himachal Pradesh Police.
3. Working of Police at district and local level.
4. Public Perception of police Services: Analysis of results.
5. Perception of police towards its working: Analysis of results.
6. Conclusion and suggestions.

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